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(56) Documents Cited

GB 1429755 A GB 1241840 A US 5706598 A
US 5642583 A US 5623779 A US 5446987 A
US 4827650 A US 3783545 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition P) F3C CFD CFE CFQ CLC CLN
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(54) Abstract Title
Firearm device

(57) A cylinder for a muzzle loading revolver which has been re-designed in a way to allow the use of modern ammunition components. i.e. smokeless powder 6, modern pistol primers 8, and modern hollow based wadcutter bullets 5.

The cylinder being bored with a step to determine the depth to which the bullet can be seated. This is required to avoid compression of the powder charge.

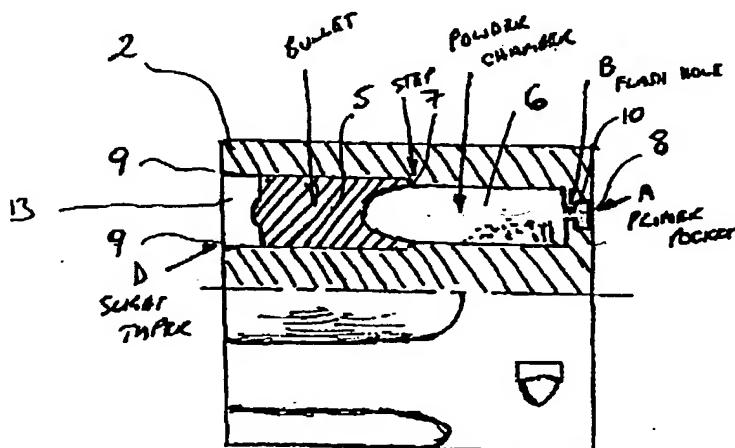
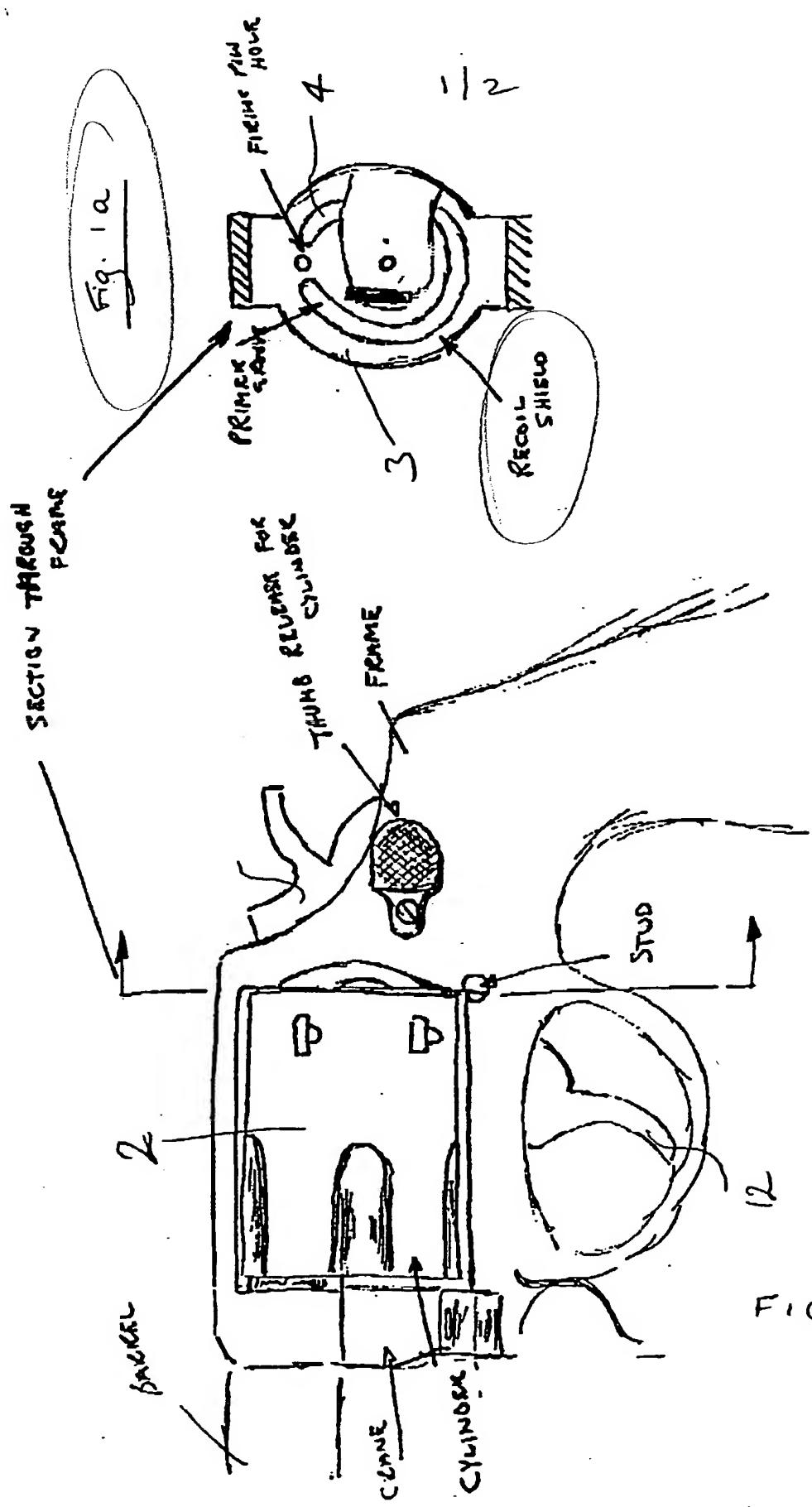


FIG 2

GB 2 329 456 A



2/2

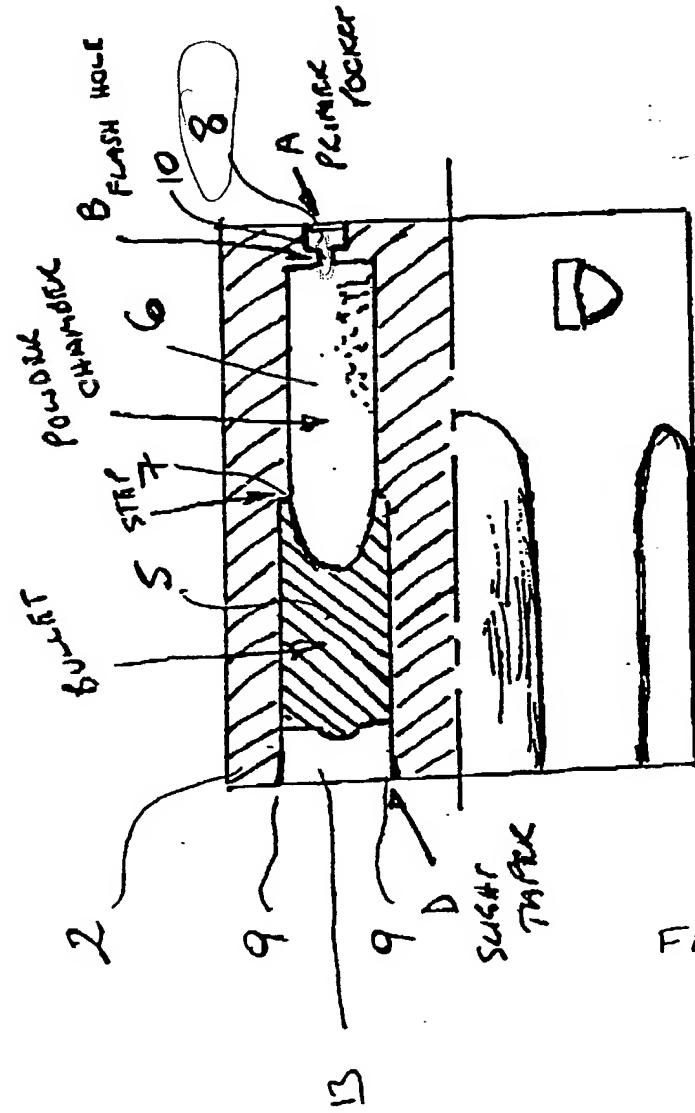


FIG 2

1 Firearm Device

2

3 The present invention relates to the cylinder of a
4 revolver, in particular a double action muzzle loading
5 revolver. This invention features a cylinder which
6 includes all the components of a modern cartridge, save
7 the removable cartridge case.

8

9 The method of firing muzzle-loaded firearms is well
10 known. Within the cylinder, "black powder" is used as
11 a propellant and percussion caps are used to ignite
12 said black powder. The percussion cap is placed on a
13 nipple which is screwed into the rear of each chamber.
14 The cylinder commonly features five or six chambers
15 which contain a small amount of said black powder which
16 has been compacted by a slightly oversized lead ball.
17 By pulling the trigger of the revolver the hammer
18 releases, striking the percussion cap, which in turn
19 detonates the powder, resulting in the lead ball being
20 propelled down the barrel of the weapon.

21

22 There are many inherent disadvantages in the above
23 system. For example, the black powder is explosive and
24 volatile, and easily ignited by a stray spark or flame.
25 The residue from black powder is corrosive,

1 necessitating a thorough cleaning of the firearm every
2 time it is discharged. There is also a tendency for
3 the percussion caps (whether spent or not) to fall off
4 during recoil of the firearm, jamming the mechanism.
5 The obnoxious smoke produced by the burned black powder
6 also prevents the use of such weapons at indoor firing
7 ranges. Unless grease or some similar material is
8 applied on top of the ball in the loaded chamber,
9 "flash over" can also occur wherein the flame of the
10 ignited burning powder in one chamber can push past the
11 ball to the powder below and detonate the neighbouring
12 chamber. Most modern made reproduction revolvers are
13 single action only, making them unsuitable for
14 competition use. The present invention is designed to
15 eliminate all of these problems.

16

17 According to a first aspect of the invention there is
18 provided a cylinder for a revolver comprising a
19 plurality of elongate chambers, the chambers preferably
20 being generally cylindrical.

21

22 Preferably each chamber is adapted to allow insertion
23 of a bullet at the forward end of said chamber.
24 Preferably each chamber is flared at the forward end
25 such that the diameter at the forward end is larger
26 than the diameter distal from the forward end.

27

28 Preferably each chamber is provided with retaining
29 means for retaining a bullet, such that the bullet is
30 spaced from the rear end of said chamber. Preferably
31 the retaining means comprises a shoulder in the chamber
32 wall. Preferably the shoulder is provided at an
33 intermediate position in the chamber such that the
34 forward portion of the chamber has a larger diameter
35 than the rear portion of the chamber. Preferably the
36 forward portion of the chamber has a diameter adapted

1 to hold a bullet in position by friction.

2

3 Preferably each chamber is associated with a primer
4 pocket located in the rear face of the cylinder.

5

6 Preferably each chamber is connected by communicating
7 means to its associated primer pocket. Preferably said
8 communicating means is a cylindrical passage at the
9 rear end of the chamber, whereby said passage has a
10 diameter smaller than the diameter of the chamber.

11

12 According to the second aspect of the invention there
13 is provided a muzzle loading revolver comprising a
14 barrel, a frame, a crane and a cylinder according to
15 the first aspect of the invention.

16

17 Preferably said cylinder is removable.

18

19 Preferably the revolver further comprises a recoil
20 shield which in use abuts the rear face of the
21 cylinder. Preferably said recoil shield has an arcuate
22 groove in the abutting face in a position corresponding
23 to the arcuate path traced by a primer pocket of said
24 cylinder when said cylinder is rotated about its axis
25 of rotation. Preferably the groove has a depth adapted
26 to allow the free passage of primer placed in said
27 primer pocket and projecting therefrom when said
28 cylinder is rotated.

29

30 The cylinder of the present invention is bored out as
31 if it had an integral cartridge contained within it.
32 At the rear of each chamber is a primer pocket which
33 allows the present invention to be used with a modern
34 firearm primer. The primer pocket is connected to the
35 chamber by means of a flash hole, while the front of
36 the chamber is bored out to accept a modern smokeless

1 powder and a modern hollow-based wad cutter bullet. In
2 order to prevent the bullet from being shaved while
3 being loaded, the front end of each chamber is slightly
4 tapered.

5

6 The cylinder is spring-loaded and allows a very slight
7 recoil action backwards, thereby preventing the primer
8 from moving out of the primer pocket and jamming the
9 cylinder. The only modification required to the
10 firearm to accept the present invention is to provide
11 an arcuate groove around the recoil shield of the
12 weapon, thus allowing the cylinder to rotate, should
13 the primer be slightly set back in the primer pocket of
14 the invention.

15

16 An embodiment of the invention will now be described,
17 by way of example only, with reference to the
18 accompanying drawings, wherein:

19

20 Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the firearm;
21 Fig. 1a is a through section of the recoil shield
22 of the firearm;
23 Fig. 2 is a partial section of the cylinder,
24 according to the present invention.

25

26 Figs 1 to 2 illustrate the cylinder of a double action
27 muzzle loading revolver, where the cylinder is designed
28 to contain all the components of a modern cartridge,
29 save the removable cartridge case.

30

31 The revolver 1 features a recoil shield 3 in which
32 there is a radial groove 4. ~~Primes~~ (not shown) are
33 placed in the primer pockets 8 of the removable
34 cylinder 2. When the cylinder 2 is fitted onto the
35 revolver 1, any protruding portions of the primers are
36 enclosed by the groove 4, thus allowing cylinder 2 to

1 rotate while the primers occupy the primer pockets 8.
2
3 Within the removable cylinder 2 are six chambers 13.
4 Each of these chambers contains a primer pocket 8 which
5 is connected to the chamber 13 via a flash hole 10.
6 Within each of the primer pockets 8 is fitted a primer.
7 When the trigger 12 of the revolver is pulled, the
8 hammer 11 is released and strikes the primer. The
9 primer then ignites the powder (not shown) within the
10 powder chamber 6. The powder is a modern smokeless
11 powder. Upon ignition, an expanding gas then propels
12 the "wad cutter" bullet 5 towards the target. When
13 fired, the cylinder 2 is preferably allowed to move
14 backward between 0 and 0.25mm to avoid the primer
15 moving out of the primer pocket 8 and jamming the
16 mechanism of the cylinder 2.
17
18 The chambers 13 of the cylinder 2 are machined to
19 feature a step 7 against which the rear of the bullet 5
20 rests when loaded into the chambers 13. The chambers
21 13 also feature a slight rearward taper 9 to prevent
22 "shaving" of the bullet 5 occurring during loading.
23
24 These and other modifications and improvements can be
25 incorporated without departing from the scope of the
26 invention.
27

What I claim is:

1. A firearm revolver cylinder machined in its external dimensions to be identical to the existing cylinder of any desired make of proprietary revolver firearm in all respects that relate to the mechanical function of the cylinder but with the chambers bored to accept a projectile, powder and cartridge primer directly into the cylinder in the desired relative dimensions rather than those relative dimensions being defined by means of a cartridge case.
2. A revolver cylinder as in claim 1 where each chamber is bored for a proportion of its length at one diameter and at a second smaller diameter to form a "step" on to which a projectile may be pressed to set a fixed repeatable depth. The smaller of the two diameters provides the combustion chamber for the propellant. The opposite end of each chamber to the projectile is bored to create a recess or "pocket" to accept a proprietary make of pistol cartridge primer. The dimensions for the primer recess and the required hole to provide access to the combustion chamber for the primer flame will of course be machined to the same dimensions as the cartridge case for which the proprietary primer is designed.
3. A cylinder as in claims 1 and 2 where a spring is provided to apply force pushing the cylinder towards the barrel of the revolver such that the cylinder may recoil against the said spring in reaction to the exit of a projectile from the cylinder. Said spring may be located on the shaft upon which the cylinder is rotatably mounted on the frame of the proprietary revolver.



Application No: GB 9719997.0
Claims searched: 1 to 3

Examiner: Trevor Berry
Date of search: 16 December 1998

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.P): F3C (CFD, CFE, CFQ, CLC, CLN)

Int CI (Ed.6): F41A 21/00, 21/12; F41C 3/00, 3/14, 3/16, 9/00, 9/08

Other: ONLINE: WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

| Category | Identity of document and relevant passage | | Relevant to claims |
|----------|---|--------------------------|--------------------|
| X | GB 1429755 | INDUSTRIE-WERKE | 1, 2 |
| X | GB 1241840 | ALLIED RESEARCH | 1-3 |
| X | US 5446987 | LEE-see figures 9 and 10 | 1 |
| X | US 5706598 | JOHNSTON | 1, 2 |
| X | US 5642583 | BALL | 1, 2 |
| X | US 5623779 | RAINEY | 1, 2 |
| X | US 4827650 | LADRIERE | 1, 2 |
| X | US 3783545 | SEFRIED | 1 |

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|---|---|---|--|
| X | Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step | A | Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. |
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